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gravure plates illustrate attitudes of the first two species during the period of courtship. In addition to the detailed life histories, considerable space is devoted in the Willow Warbler biography to a discussion of the probable cause of the early migration of certain species of warblers and also of the probability of the same pair of migrant birds mating in successive years. The author considers the latter highly improbable in species where the males precede the females in migration. The possibility of one or other perishing during the migrations is very great and if the male bird waited for the arrival of his last year's mate, many a male would remain unmated. The evidence seems to point to his mating with the first female to arrive in his neighborhood and this would seem most advantageous to the perpetuation of the species. There is also much of interest in the account of sexual excitement and display on the part of the male birds in the species treated. Both plates and text are fully up to the high standard set by the previous parts.—W. S.

**Hartert's Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna.**—The seventh part<sup>1</sup> of this notable work on the palæarctic Avifauna comprises the Swifts, Goat-suckers, Bee-eaters, Hoopoes, Rollers, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers, Cuckoos and part of the Owls. Owing to the strict adherence to the International Code the nomenclature takes on some changes and accords with the A. O. U. Check-List in genera which are found also in the Nearctic region. *Dryobates* long used in America is adopted for the small black and white woodpeckers and the efforts of our ornithologists in splitting up the North American forms of this genus are far excelled, no less than sixty species and subspecies being listed. *D. major* has sixteen races, and *D. minor* thirteen. *Picus* takes the place of *Gecinus*.

The following new forms appear in the main text or in annotations: *Caprimulgus europaeus sarudnyi*, W. Turkestan; *Dryobates minor buturlini*, Italy; *D. hyperythrus marshalli*, N. W. Himalayas; *Picumnus innominatus malayorum*, Borneo; *P. i. avunculorum*, Nilgiri Hills; *Cuculus canorus bakeri*, Shellong, Khasia Mts.; *C. intermedius insulindae*, Kina Balu, Borneo.

All who have occasion to deal with palæarctic birds will congratulate Dr. Hartert upon the progress of his work.—W. S.

**'A Hand-List of British Birds.'**<sup>2</sup>—A little more than a quarter-century ago the American Ornithologists' Union, in an effort to establish uniformity

<sup>1</sup> Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna. Systematische Übersicht der in Europa, Nord-Asian und der Mittelmeerregion vorkommenden Vögel. Von Dr. Ernst Hartert. Heft VII (Bd. II, 1). Seite 833-960. Mit 30 Abbildungen. Berlin, 1912.

<sup>2</sup> A Hand-list of | British Birds | with an Account of the Distribution of each | Species in the British Isles and Abroad. | By | Ernst Hartert | F. C. R. Jourdain | N. F. Ticehurst | and | H. F. Witherby. | Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. | 1912.—8vo., pp. i-xii + 1-237. Price 7s 6d. net.